

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 4-6 and 14-17 are pending in this application, with Claims 4, 14 and 17 being independent.

Claims 4, 14, and 17 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure at least, for example, at page 7, lines 21-25. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 4-6 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Wiegley) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0097323 (Laptsun et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 4, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of analyzing means for extracting encrypted print image data by analyzing a command of print control data without using an obtained common key, and decrypting the encrypted print image data extracted by the analyzing means using a key correspond to the print ID. With these features, efficient security can be provided because encrypted print image data is extracted by analyzing a command of print control data without using a common key, whereas decryption of the extracted print image data is performed using a key corresponding to a print ID. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the aforementioned features of Claim 4.

Wiegley discloses that a computer encrypts print data using a session key and then a printed decrypts the encrypted print data using the session key. However, that patent fails

to disclose or suggest at least the features of extracting encrypted print data by analyzing a command of print control data without using a common key, and decrypting the encrypted print image data extracted by analyzing means using a key corresponding to the print ID.

Laptsun et al. likewise fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features and therefore fails to remedy the deficiencies of Wiegley.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 4 is patentable over the art of record. Independent Claims 14 and 17 recite similar features and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 4. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Brian L. Klock
Registration No.36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK

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